

Message Text

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65

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XA

SUBJ: CONAKRY CONFERENCE IN SOVIET PRESS

REF: CONAKRY 0540 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. CENTRAL PRESS COVERAGE OF THE MEETING IN
CONAKRY FOCUSES ON CALLS FOR SUPPORT OF THE LIBBERATION OF
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NAMIBIA, ZIMBABWE, AND SOUTH AFRICA. TASS ALSO ANNOUNCES A

DECLARATION BY THE SOVIET COMMITTEE FOR SOLIDARITY WITH THE COUNTRIES OF ASIA AND AFRICA WHICH MAKES SIMILAR CALLS. END SUMMARY.

2. CENTRAL PRESS (MARCH 17) CARRIES A TASS REPORT FROM CONAKRY ON THE FOUR-POWER "MINI-SUMMIT" WHICH EMPHASIZES THE "INCREASING SOLIDARITY OF ALL PROGRESSIVE FORCES IN THE WORLD WITH THE STRUGGLING PATRIOTS OF ANGOLA", AND STATES THE FOUR LEADERS "CALLED FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE STRUGGLE FOR COMPLETE LIBERATION OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENT." TASS STRESSES CASTRO'S SPEECH, AND REPORTS THAT HE "CONDEMNED THE CONTINUING SOUTH AFRICAN AGGRESSION AGAINST THE PEOPLE OF ANGOLA," AS WELL AS THE CONTROL OF NAMIBIA BY THE "SOUTH AFRICAN OCCUPIERS." HE EXPRESSED HIS "SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE, WHO ARE FIGHTING FOR THEIR NATIONAL LIBERATION," TASS CONTINUES. ACCORDING TO TASS, CASTRO CONCLUDED THAT "NO MACHINATIONS OF REACTIONARY FORCES" CAN STAND IN THE WAY OF THE LIBERATION OF AFRICA.

3. CENTRAL PRESS ALSO CARRIES A TASS REPORT--ENTITLED "HANDS OFF MOZAMBIQUE"--THAT THE SOVIET COMMITTEE FOR SOLIDARITY WITH COUNTRIES OF ASIA AND AFRICA ISSUED A DECLARATION WHICH EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR MOZAMBIQUE'S STAND AGAINST "AGGRESSION", AND WHICH CLAIMS THE OAU ALSO FIRMLY SUPPORTS MOZAMBIQUE. FURTHERMORE, "IN THE NAME OF SOVIET SOCIETY" THE COMMITTEE "SEVERELY CONDEMNS THE AGGRESSIVE ACTIONS OF THE RACIST REGIME OF RHODESIA" AGAINST MOZAMBIQUE, AND EXPRESSES ITS SUPPORT FOR MAPUTO'S SANCTIONS. ACCORDING TO TASS, THE DECLARATION CITES THE 25TH CONGRESS' SUPPORT FOR "THE COMPLETE LIQUIDATION OF ALL VESTIGES OF COLONIALISM AND RACISM", AND CONCLUDES THAT "THE SOVIET PEOPLE DESIRE JUSTICE AND FREEDOM" FOR THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE, SOUTH AFRICA AND NAMIBIA.

4. COMMENT. IT IS INTERESTING (AND PERHAPS SIGNIFICANT) THAT MOSCOW CHOSE TO EMPHASIZE CASTRO'S COMMENTS ON THE SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, RATHER THAN HIS ATTACKS ON THE U.S. AND THE PRESIDENT (REFTEL); DIS-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COUNTING THE BOMBAST FACTOR, THE CUBAN LEADER'S WORDS STRIKE US AS VERY FIRM. MOREOVER, THE PUBLICATION OF THE SOLIDARITY COMMITTEE'S DECLARATION, COUPLED WITH TASS' FOCUS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA IN ITS CASTRO COVERAGE, GIVE SOVIET READERS THE CASE FOR CONTINUING CUBAN (AND SOVIET) INVOLVEMENT IN EXTENSION OF THE "LIBERATION STRUGGLE" SOUTHWARD AND EASTWARD FROM ANGOLA. STOESEL

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